

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street Sacramento, CA 95814



March 13, 1997

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 97 - 16

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

Reason for this Transmittal

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: WAIVER OF THE ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) WORK REQUIREMENT

On January 31, 1997, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) requested a waiver of the food stamp work requirement for able-bodied food stamp recipients from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in counties with an unemployment rate of over 10 percent. Federal guidelines permit a state requesting a waiver on this basis to request and implement the waiver without further Federal approval.

Based on further discussions and input from the counties and other interested stakeholders, CDSS is seeking Federal approval of an expanded waiver of this work requirement on a statewide basis through August 31, 1997. This waiver would provide counties additional time to inform the impacted population about eligible work-related activities, and to obtain assistance from employers and community organizations in providing activities which would enable individuals to meet the ABAWD work requirement.

While CDSS is awaiting approval of this expanded waiver, counties should not deny eligibility to those who have failed or who fail to satisfy the ABAWD work requirement for three or more months. Such cases should be flagged for discontinuance in the event that the waiver request is not approved. Benefits shall not be restored during this interim period to individuals already denied eligibility on March 1, 1997 for not meeting the ABAWD work requirement. Counties should also flag the cases of those who apply for food stamps or are recertified during this interim time period and who would otherwise be subject to the ABAWD work requirement. If the ABAWD waiver request is denied, counties will need to take immediate action in tracking recipient compliance with the ABAWD work requirement and in denying eligibility to those who have failed to meet this requirement for three or more months. If the ABAWD waiver is approved, counties will need to take immediate action to restore the benefits to those individuals denied food stamp eligibility on March 1, 1997 for not meeting the ABAWD work requirement.

CDSS will notify the counties once review of this expanded waiver request has been completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If you have any questions, please contact your Employment Operations analyst at (916) 657-3403.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division